

WABASH RIVER HERITAGE CORRIDOR COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes – September 13, 2006
Thrall's Opera House
New Harmony, IN

Voting Members Present: Adams County – John Friedt Allen County - Aaron Wartenberg (proxy) Carroll County – George Mears DNR – Steve Morris Gibson County – Sherrel Marginet (alt) Knox County – Shane Cooper Posey County – Ralph Weinzapfel Sullivan County – John Gettinger Vigo County – Keith Ruble (alternate) Wabash County – Ernest Passwater Warren County – Louise Jewell		Voting Members Absent w/o Proxy: Fountain County Jay County Parke County Vermillion County Wells County
Proxies Paul McAfee (Allen) – Aaron Wartenberg Mercedes Brugh (Cass) – John Gettinger Mike Mettler (Huntington) – John Gettinger Ken Einselen (Miami) – John Gettinger Norman Neiburger (Tippecanoe) – John Gettinger Keith Huffman (Wells) – John Gettinger		Non-Voting Members Not Present IDEM INDOT DNR-DHPA Indiana Tourism
Non-Voting Members Present:		Guests: Ivan Alsop Jean Culver Kenyon Bailey Susan Ruble Don Jewell
Commission and DNR Staff Present: Ron James – WRHCC Executive Director Karen Hanes – DNR Outdoor Recreation		

CALL TO ORDER

John Gettinger called the meeting to order at 1:16 p.m. CDT. John asked everyone to introduce themselves and the county they represent.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE JULY 12th MEETING MINUTES

John asked for approval of the July 12th meeting minutes. Keith Ruble made a motion to approve the minutes. Ernest Passwater seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

John Gettinger reported that he had been away most of the summer. John reported on projects in the southern reaches of the corridor including the 5th annual rafting trip in Sullivan County where every 8th grader will spend a day rafting the river - 100 to 110 students on the river each of 3 days. A survey of Sullivan County high school seniors (the first class which participated in the raft trip) found 70% would volunteer to help with future trips; 94% indicated it was the most influential occurrence of their 8th grade year.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ron James reported he was attending River Rally '07 organizational meetings; Water Trail grand openings and River Odyssey gallery openings. Ron stated WT signs were now posted in most counties, most recently in Huntington County. Of the Water Trail Grand Openings, Ron mentioned over 300 people enjoyed the festivities at New Harmony's "Paddlefest." Ron stated the print-out of his report would be attached to the November meeting mailings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance: Steve Morris distributed an accounting office summary of the budget. Steve stated the budget is for \$97,849 and \$1,891 had been spent to date. Louise Jewell made a motion to approve the financial report. Ralph Weinzapfel seconded the motion and it carried.

Legislative Committee: No action, no report. John Gettinger stated that Mercedes Brugh needed help with this committee, Ralph Weinzapfel, George Mears, Aaron Wartenberg and Sherrel Marginet will fill out her committee roster. John requested everyone keep Wabash River issues before their legislators.

Water Trail: Ron James reported that ~75% of the access points have signs posted along the river. Ron also stated the commission still has plenty of the larger signs with only a few having been posted.

Education: John Gettinger reported the scheduling of a committee meeting for 9/27/06 in the Lafayette office to consider the proposal to use parts of the Wabash River documentary and extra footage for a teaching curriculum.

Indiana River Rally Ron James reported the River Rally will be held on June 7-10, 2007. Ron stated all commission members were on the mailing list for this important river gathering. On John & Ron's suggestion that the commission members should plan on attending the rally, it was decided to modify the meeting calendar for next year to convene a meeting of the Commission during the Rally. Lucky Neiburger, for Tippecanoe County, will be consulted to determine further needs/logistics to this end.

OLD BUSINESS

Wabash River Water Trail openings: Steve Morris reported that each county was allotted \$300 as a budget for their grand openings. Steve reminded the board he would need an invoice, a W-9, and a Direct Deposit form from each vendor they used.

Banks of the Wabash John Gettinger reported that Sullivan County currently has 13 members. The Banks' goal is to have representatives, ideally whole chapters, from every county along the Wabash River. A new member brochure is being printed. Their next meeting is September 20, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. in Merom.

Sagamore Nomination Procedure: Ron James reported that the Sagamore can only come from the governor's office. Keith Ruble made a motion for Ron J. to prepare a Resolution to the Governor for the November meeting for the commission to review. Motion seconded by Sherrel Marginet. The motion was passed.

Upgrade to Lafayette Office: Ron James reported that Linda Lambert from IOT is working on a quote to upgrade the phone/internet access of the Lafayette office.

Logo Embroidery: Ron James stated he had gotten 2 phone quotes for the WRHCC Logo. Discussion whether to retain the color shift or 'fade' found in the print version of the logo or go to solid colors and whether the Commission needed samples for selection. It was left that Ron would select as he saw fit.

NEW BUSINESS

Discover the River 8th grade raft trip support, date and volunteers: John Gettinger reported Discover the River will be held October 2, 3 and 4. John also stated they were currently turning away volunteers. Keith Ruble made a motion to donate \$100 to the Discover the River raft trip, Louis Jewell second the motion and it carried.

Upper Wabash Basin Commission John Gettinger suggested the Commission resolve support for the Upper Wabash River Basin Commission's application for a Sec. 319 grant. Keith Ruble made a motion to Support the 319 grant application of the UWRBC, Ernest Passwater second. The motion carried. Ron will send it to them on our stationary.

Reflections: Commission members from Wells, Wabash and Allen County will prepare articles for the next Reflections. These should be to Ron by the end of October.

2007-2009 WRHCC Budget Request: Steve Morris reported that the WRHCC has been included in the DNR budget request for the next biennium at \$97,850/year, which is the same amount that was appropriated to the WRHCC in the current biennium.

Heritage Area Study: Ron J. reported a meeting with Donn Werling of the Maumee Heritage Corridor. A draft letter to Rep. Mark Souder (and his opponent in the upcoming election, Tom Hayhurst) is to be prepared to give new or further information concerning the Maumee/Wabash corridors' desire to be studied by the National Park Service for National Heritage Area status.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ron James reported the Purdue Univ. Watershed Leadership Academy had asked him to be on their Steering Committee. Ralph Weinzapfel made a motion to approve Ron James' participation on the steering committee, Steve Morris seconded the motion and it carried.

Ron James also reported a survey was received from Purdue U.'s "Living Laboratory On the Wabash" group regarding, among other attitude questions, benefits of a dam on the Wabash. Sherrel Marginet moved that the Commission support a policy of no new dams on the Wabash River, Louise Jewell seconded the motion and it carried. Ron will let the LLOW know our policy at this time. The Corps of Engineers or the LLOW group will be invited to attend a meeting in the future to discuss their observations, findings, or positions.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m. The next meeting will be held November 8, 2006 at the Indiana Government Center Conference Rooms in Indianapolis.